

The Life Stages of Crude Oil.....

MC252 is an oil type known as Light Sweet Louisiana crude, which does not contain hydrogen sulfide. Those components of most concern to the public health, like benzene, evaporate quickly once the oil reaches the surface.



SLICK

- ***Slick***, is the oil close to the source of the release. It is dull to dark brown in color and in continuous patches.
- A ***sheen*** is a very thin layer of fresh oil. It may be transparent, rainbow, grey, or silvery in color.



SHEEN



MOUSSE on the water

- ***Mousse*** or emulsified oil or oil and water mixture. It is brown, rust, or orange in color with a pudding-like consistency. It is sometimes confused with algae. It has little odor, and is sticky in consistency. Chemical analysis will be required to distinguish MC252 from algae.



MOUSSE on shore

Because the MC252 source is 50 miles from the nearest shoreline, any oil reaching the shore will be weathered mousse or tar balls.



MC252 oil will weather to form small, hard, floating black pellets or chunks of oil. **Tar Balls** also occur naturally and wash up regularly on Gulf Coast shorelines. Chemical analysis will be required to distinguish MC252 tar balls from other tar balls.

What are the health threats of light crude oil?

- For most people brief contact with a small amount of oil will do no harm. Some people are more sensitive to chemicals, including those found in crude oil. These people may develop a rash or skin irritation or have other allergic reactions.
- Skin contact with crude oil that lasts a long time can cause skin reddening, swelling, and burning. The skin effects can get worse if the skin is exposed to the sun. Skin contact can also make you more likely to develop a rash or skin

infection.

- Light crude oil may also be irritating if it contacts your eyes.
- Swallowing small amounts (less than a coffee cup) of oil will cause upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea, but is unlikely to have long-lasting health effects.

How can I avoid the health threats of light crude oil?

- Avoid skin contact with oil. If you are involved in clean-up efforts, wear gloves, eye protection, and clothing that cover your arms and legs.
- If you get oil on your skin, wash with soap and water, baby oil, petroleum jelly, or a cleaning paste for hands such as those sold at auto parts stores. Do not use solvents, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, or similar products to clean oil off skin.
- If you get oil in your eyes, flush them with water for 15 minutes.
- If you swallow oil, do not try to vomit it, as this may get oil into your lungs.
- If you inhale oil vapors, or smoke from burning oil, move to an area where the air is more clear. If you have inhaled a lot of vapor or smoke and feel short of breath, have chest pain or tightness, or dizziness, seek medical attention.

If you would like to report sheens, mousse, or tar balls please call 1-866-448-5816

